

on a joint resolution—not a treaty—Texas became a State in the United States by one vote when, apparently, a Louisiana Senator changed his mind and voted to annex Texas and make it the next State in the United States.

That took place in 1845. Ever since then, Texas gave up its sovereignty as a republic and became a State. Some say that we still act like we are a foreign country, a sovereign country.

Under Texas law that allowed it to become a part of the U.S., the Texas flag always is supposed to fly level with the American flag, since we were a republic. Texas can divide into five states. I don't ever see that happening, but Texans can make that decision and split the State up to make it five different states.

We have a unique history, as all of America has a unique history, and it goes back to the fact that Texans did not want to live under a dictatorship no matter who it was.

That is why people of all races were at the Alamo. All races fought for Texas independence, for freedom, and for liberty—very similar to the actions that took place with the Thirteen Colonies in how they were being oppressed by Great Britain.

Nobody ever thought they could whip Great Britain—the most powerful empire that had ever existed at the time—and very few people thought that Texas could defeat Mexico. After all, Santa Anna had defeated all of these other parts of Mexico that were in rebellion. He had not lost any battles when he came and invaded Texas.

People were surprised that Texas could defeat them, but it did because some things are worth fighting for and giving their lives for. That is why those 187 individuals from all walks of life, from different parts of the world—Brown, Black, and White—stood together as volunteers to defend the Alamo and help freedom ring in a part of the world that we call Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I think you are probably old enough to have heard of Marty Robbins. Maybe you haven't. Marty Robbins, years ago, the singer, wrote a ballad in honor of the people who stayed and defied tyranny and gave their lives fighting for freedom, for Texas.

It goes like this:

In the southern part of Texas in the town of San Antone,
There's a fortress all in ruin, and the weeds have overgrown.
You may look in vain for crosses, and you'll never see a one, but sometime between the setting and the rising of the Sun,
You can hear a ghostly bugle as men go marching by;
You can hear them as they answer to that roll call in the sky:
Colonel Travis, Davy Crockett, and 180 more;
Captain Dickinson, Jim Bowie stand present and accounted for.
Back in 1836, Sam Houston said to Travis,
"Get some volunteers, and go and fortify the Alamo."
Well, the men came from Texas and from old Tennessee and a lot of other places.
They joined up with Travis just to fight for the right to be free.

Indian scouts with squirrel guns and men with muzzle loaders,

Stood together, heel and toe, to defend the Alamo.

"You may never see your loved ones," Travis told them that day.

"Those who want to can leave now. Those who fight to the death, let 'em stay."

So, in the sand, he drew a line with his army sabre;

Out of 185, not a soldier crossed the line.

With his banners a-dancin' in the dawn's golden light,

Santa Anna came prancin' on a horse that was black as the night.

He sent an officer to tell Travis to surrender. Travis answered with a shell and a rousin' yell.

Santa Anna said, "I will show them no quarter. Everyone will be put to our sword."

185 holding back 5,000.

5 days, 6 days, 8 days, 10 days, Travis kept holding again and again.

Then Travis sent for replacements for his wounded and lame,

But the troops that were comin' never came, never came.

So twice Santa Anna charged and then blew recall,

But on that fatal third time, Santa Anna breached the wall, and he killed them one and all.

Now the bugles are silent, and there is rust on each sword,

And the small band of soldiers lies asleep in the arms of the Lord.

In the southern part of Texas, near the town of San Antone,

Like a statue on his pinto rides a cowboy all alone.

He sees the cattle grazin' where a century before,

Santa Anna's guns were blazin' and the cannons used to roar.

His eyes turn a little misty, and his heart begins to glow,

And he takes his hat off slowly to those men of the Alamo,

To the 13 days of glory at the siege of the Alamo.

And that is just the way it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

AUTUMN GADOUA

(Mr. YOUNG of Iowa asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a very special seventh-grader from Hamburg, Iowa, in Fremont County, located in the Third Congressional District, which I represent.

Autumn Gadoua is the statewide winner in the Iowa League of Cities' Fifth Annual "If I Were Mayor" contest. This annual essay contest allows students to form and express ideas regarding citizenship and leadership. Autumn and the other district winners are being recognized at a ceremony at the Iowa State Capitol building in Des Moines.

In her essay, Autumn wrote that, if she were mayor of her hometown, she would pursue policies that would preserve the town's history and the historical brick buildings for current and new businesses. She notes that this policy would connect the past to the

present and would promote growth for the future.

Mayor Gadoua would also work for opportunities to help businesses thrive, bring new businesses and families to the town, promote green solutions, recycling, and support police officers and firefighters to keep them and the citizens of the community safe.

Autumn concluded her essay by saying:

I would visit the school in my community to teach children the responsibilities of a mayor and give examples of good citizenship. To help children grow and learn, I would establish an afterschool youth club. Being mayor is a big responsibility but one that is rewarding and important to me.

I applaud and congratulate Autumn for her award-winning essay and for proving that the next generation of leaders in Iowa and this Nation is already preparing for its time of service.

I am proud to represent Autumn and her family and her teachers and fellow students in the United States Congress. I know that my colleagues join me in congratulating Autumn Gadoua and in wishing her continued success in the future.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today to March 6.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 25, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

515. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's report to Congress on Fiscal Year 2016 Staff Years of Technical Effort and Estimated Funding for Department of Defense Federally Funded Research and Development Centers, pursuant to Public Law 113-235, Div. C section 8024(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

516. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report on the Transition of the Stewardship of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) Functions through January 31, 2015, pursuant to Public Law 113-235; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

517. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Direct final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; VOM Definition [EPA-R05-OAR-2014-